

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application, and claims 1-12 have been examined. The Examiner acknowledges that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter, but the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 and 11-12. In particular: claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 4-26345 issued to Hayashi ("Hayashi"), in view of Kusumoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,576,584 ("Kusumoto"); claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayashi and Kusumoto as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Asao et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,281,612 ("Asao 1"); claims 7, 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayashi and Kusumoto as applied to claim 1, and further in view of EP 0 999 637 of Cooper ("Cooper"); claims 7-9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayashi and Kusumoto as applied to claim 1, and further in view of JP SHO 59-191856 ("JP 59-191856"); and claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hayashi and Kusumoto as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Asao et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,504,283 ("Asao 2").

Applicants overcome these rejections as follows.

II. Claim Rejections

Applicants incorporate the subject matter of claim 9 and the allowable subject matter of claim 10 (*see* Office Action, page 7) into claim 1. Consequently, Applicants cancel claims 9 and 10 to avoid redundancy. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome

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the art rejections and place the application in condition for immediate allowance with claims 1-8 and 11-12.

III. Formal Matters

Priority

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, including receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that the references cited in the IDS filed on November 27, 2001 have been considered.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings, stating that figures 9 and 10 should be designated with a legend such as --PRIOR ART-- because only that which is old is illustrated (*see* MPEP § 608.02(g)). Accordingly, Applicants propose adding a legend to figures 9 and 10.

Additionally, Applicants propose correcting a minor typographical error in Fig. 6 (wherein the leftmost instance of reference 54a should instead read 54b).

Therefore, Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections (for Figs. 6, 9 and 10). The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of this Request and approved the changes proposed therein.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An automotive alternator comprising:

a rotor fixed to a shaft rotatably supported in a case; and

a stator provided with:

a cylindrical stator core supported in said case so as to envelop said rotor, slots extending axially being formed in said stator core so as to line up in a circumferential direction at a ratio of two per phase per pole; and

a stator winding constructed by installing a conductor wire coated with an electrical insulator in said stator core,

a relationship between a radial dimension (d) of said conductor wire coated with said electrical insulator and a circumferential width dimension (L) of said slots being $2d < L$,

wherein a deformable plug is disposed inside an opening portion of said slots, and a cut portion is formed in said plug.